

NEW CLAIMS

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1. An artificial blood vessel inner layer, made from synthetic material, such as an artificial tunica intima or the like for replacing a section of blood vessel inner layer previously removed from a blood vessel and/or for covering a predetermined length of damaged blood vessel inner layer, comprising diameter arranging means for increasing and/or decreasing the diameter of the artificial blood vessel inner layer,

10 characterized in that said artificial blood vessel layer in turn comprises one or more end sections folded back over the outer surface thereof to lie unjoined therealong, in which fold(s) the diameter arranging means are disposed.

15 2. An artificial blood vessel inner layer according to claim 1 wherein the diameter arranging means comprise a length of memory metal preprogrammed to expand and/or contract at a determined temperature.

20 3. An artificial blood vessel inner layer according to claim 1 wherein the diameter arranging means comprise an expandable gauze.

4. A blood vessel treating assembly, comprising:

a 25 - an artificial blood vessel inner layer according to any of the <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~claims 1-3~~ and, - introducing means for introducing the artificial blood vessel inner layer into a blood vessel.

5. An assembly according to claim 6, further comprising at least one sheath-like protective cover.

a 30 6. An assembly according to <sup>claim 4</sup> ~~claims 4 or 5~~ wherein the introducing means comprise at least one

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catheter-like element associated with the artificial blood vessel inner layer.

a 7. An assembly according to any of the ~~claims~~ <sup>claim 4</sup>  
4-6 further comprising widening means for widening out of  
5 the blood vessel in order to facilitate introduction of  
the blood vessel treating assembly therein.

a 8. An assembly according to any of the ~~claims~~ <sup>claim 4</sup>  
4-7 further comprising bunging means for substantially  
blocking off the passage of blood into the assembly  
10 during introduction of the assembly into the blood  
vessel.

a 9. A blood vessel treating assembly according  
to any of the ~~claims 4-8~~ <sup>Claim 4</sup> further comprising pressure  
exerting means for exerting pressure onto the artificial  
15 blood vessel inner layer, when the latter is in position  
within the blood vessel.

10. A blood vessel treating assembly according  
to claim 9 wherein the blood vessel widening means, the  
bunging means and the pressure exerting means comprise a  
20 cone-shaped element associated with the front of the  
introducing means.

a 11. Introducing means for introducing an  
artificial blood vessel inner layer according to any of  
the ~~claims 1-10~~ <sup>Claim 1</sup> into a blood vessel, comprising:

- 25 - a catheter-like element,  
- widening means for widening out of the blood  
vessel in order to facilitate introduction of the  
artificial blood vessel inner layer therein,  
- bunging means for substantially blocking off  
30 the passage of blood during introduction of the  
artificial blood vessel inner layer,  
- pressure exerting means for exerting  
pressure onto the artificial blood vessel inner layer,  
when the latter is in position within the blood vessel,  
35 **characterized in that** the widening, bunging and  
pressure exerting means have substantially the same  
diameter as the internal diameter of the blood vessel  
into which the artificial blood vessel is introduceable.

5 13. A method of replacing a previously removed  
inner layer of a blood vessel and/or for covering a  
predetermined length of damaged blood vessel inner layer  
comprising the steps of inserting a blood vessel treating  
assembly according to ~~claims 4-11~~ <sup>claim 7</sup> via an incision, upto

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